

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

## GRANT APPLICATION TITLE PAGE

TITLE OF PROJECT/PROGRAM	Malibu Water Quality Probe Maintenance		
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT	Third District		
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT CONTACT	Susan Nissman		
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT DEPUTY	Susan Nissman		
TELEPHONE NUMBER(S)	818-880-9416		
DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION	RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains		
	[As it appears on (501) (c) (3) IRS Letter] (If applicable)		
ADDRESS	PO Box 638		
CITY	Agoura Hills	STATE	CA ZIP CODE 91376-0638
TELEPHONE NUMBER	818-597-8627 x102	FAX NUMBER	818-597-8630
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$3,977		
AUDITED TOTAL INCOME	\$707,802	AUDITED TOTAL EXPENSES	\$761,206
FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING	2009	AND ENDING	2010
SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE		DATE	

Note: Please complete this title page and attach all grant application materials prior to submission. If you have any question you may contact the Fish and Game Commission staff at (213) 974-1431.

For all areas that are not applicable, please indicate N/A in area.

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One Page Project Summary

Water quality problems are a continuing concern in Malibu Creek, especially as they impact endangered southern steelhead trout (*Onchorynchus mykiss*). In 2006, we documented a complete die-off of all trout (and other less sensitive aquatic species) related to a temperature spike and associated algal decay. In 2009, we again observed a partial decline of these sensitive fish, and were able to borrow and deploy three continuously recording data sondes, that collected temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity and chlorophyll a. We were also able to borrow and deploy these probes again in 2010. In October 2011, a partnership with National Park Service and California State University Channel Islands was initiated, resulting in the installation of a permanent station to which a sonde can be attached and the information continuously accessed remotely via Internet. Unfortunately, some of the probes for the sonde have been damaged and need to be replaced. This proposal requests assistance in replacing the damaged probes and purchasing the necessary solutions to calibrate the probes, which would allow us to deploy these sondes in summer 2012.

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Background on Applicant:

Purpose and goals:

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The RCDSMM has provided important resource management information to our constituents since 1961. We have a long history of research, education, outreach and implementation of watershed planning and restoration within the Santa Monica Mountains.

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Brief summary of current activities:

The research and education team at the RCDSMM has been coordinating studies in the Malibu Creek Watershed since 1984 when the lagoon was initially restored. We have been conducting monthly monitoring of southern steelhead trout since 2005, supported by grants from CDFG Fisheries Restoration Program.

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Geographic area served:

The boundaries of the RCDSMM extend from Encino to Thousand Oaks, from the Chatsworth reservoir south to the ocean, and Catalina Island. The focus of this effort will be Malibu Creek.

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Major sources and dollar amounts of corporate, foundation and government support during current and past fiscal year:

Funding for our southern steelhead trout monitoring efforts in Malibu, Topanga, and Arroyo Sequit Creeks has been provided by the CDFG Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. Our current grant funding continues until March 2013, and the total award was \$130,197.00. Unfortunately, the grant does not cover the costs associated with repairing or maintaining the sondes. It does cover the personnel costs by incorporating maintenance and calibration activities with monthly snorkel surveys.

History of all grants received from the Los Angeles County Fish and Game Commission:

The RCDSMM has not received any grants from the Fish and Game Commission to date.

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Project Information

Statement of justification of need:

Southern steelhead trout are an iconic fish species, especially in the Santa Monica Bay. At present, NMFS estimates that only 500 anadromous adults are left, and Malibu Creek is both a historic and present critical habitat for this federally endangered species. Identifying water quality parameters that may have contributed to the die-off in 2006, and that are currently compromising the habitat quality of the creek, is essential to making informed management plans to prevent future impacts.

Statement of purpose and goals:

The purpose of this grant is to continuously document water temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen in Malibu Creek between March and November by deploying a continuously recording sonde attached to a permanent station that can transmit data for remote access.

The goal is to identify potentially lethal conditions (high water temperatures, low dissolved oxygen) that could impact southern steelhead trout so that these conditions could be mediated and/or the fish rescued in a timely fashion.

Action plan to meet objectives:

The permanent station is in place. We need two functional sondes (each having probes to collect water temperature, dissolved oxygen and pH data) from March through November. In addition to functional probes, the sondes are calibrated and downloaded monthly as part of regular snorkel surveys (funded by CDFG).

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Statement of how the objectives advance the propagation and protection of fish and wildlife:

Southern steelhead trout are tolerant of higher water temperatures, but the lethal thermal maximum, and how this interacts in the real world with decreased dissolved oxygen levels, and dense, decaying algal mats is not clear. Only by obtaining continuous data during events when conditions are stressful, will we be able to understand the synergistic relationships of these physical parameters and potential impacts to the trout.

Project budget and timetable:

Project start: April 2012      Project end: November 2012

Budget:

Troll 9000 data sonde probe replacement and service x 2 (\$1,654@)	\$3,308
Calibration solutions - Quick-Cal for Dissolved oxygen x 4(\$69@)	\$ 207
Installation locks, batteries and misc. hardware	\$100
RCDSMM Administration (10%)	\$362
<b>TOTAL BUDGET REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$3,977</b>

Sources of other support for project:

CDFG Fisheries Restoration Grant No P1050009 provides a total of \$130,197, which will cover all personnel costs.

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Current status of project:

The permanent station, including solar powered batteries and wireless modem connection to the sonde mount, was installed in October 2011. NPS and CSUCI have each provided an In-Situ Troll 9000 data sonde to be used for this project.

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Cash flow analysis of the expenditure of project funds:

Funds will be allocated to cover probe repair and purchase of calibration solutions starting in April 2012. The RCDSMM invoices for expenditures monthly, providing documentation of actual costs.

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Proposed method of evaluating results:

A Technical Advisory Committee comprised of local experts has been in place since 2006, and meet on an as-needed basis. They have reviewed and vetted our calibration and deployment procedures, as well as the Quality Assurance/Quality Control protocol used to review all data as it is downloaded and analyzed. Data is shared with the TAC for their review and to assist in making management plans to respond to problems as they arise.

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Plans for funding on-going project (if applicable):

Our goal is to find continuous funding for water quality monitoring in Malibu Creek to compliment the information gathered monthly during snorkel surveys. Fortunately, the situation encountered in 2006 that resulted in the die-off of all aquatic species below Rindge Dam has not returned, but since we were not able to clearly identify a causal agent for that event, it seems prudent to continue as much monitoring as possible in case it should occur again. Now that the infrastructure for the permanent station is in place, we hope to include on-going maintenance, repair and calibration costs into the next CDFG grant proposal. However, we will not be submitting that proposal until spring 2013, so funding for the interim is critical.

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Please Attach the Following Supporting Documents, if applicable:

- Copy of the Latest IRS Determination Letter of Tax Exempt Status under Section 501(c) (3)
- Organization's Most Recent Audited Financial Statement
- Organization Most Recent IRS Form 990





**RESOURCE**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
OF THE  
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

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Clark Stevens, AIA

January 4, 2012

County of Los Angeles  
Fish and Game Commission

Dear Commissioners,

In compliance with the request for supporting documents relevant to the fiscal status of the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica (RCDSMM), we provide the following information.

The RCDSMM, a subdivision of the State of California, is a local special district organized under division 9 of the CA Public Resources Code.

Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 115 states that the gross income of a subdivision of a state is not taxable by the Federal government.

IRC Section 170(c)(1) states that contributions to subdivisions of a state are tax deductible as long as they are used for public purposes.

Therefore, the RCDSMM does not submit forms or pay federal income tax and contributions to the RCDSMM are tax deductible.

We appreciate the support of Supervisor Yaroslavsky for our efforts to provide important resource management information that will help protect and preserve the Santa Monica Mountains.

Sincerely,

John Hendra  
Operations Manager